

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for manufacturing an absorbent dryformed paper web having a plurality of layers, with ~~at least one~~ an optional center layer containing a superabsorbent material comprising:
 - a. laying a web of cellulose fibers, admixed with thermobonding fibers, onto a forming wire, wherein the thermobonding fibers comprise about 3 - 25 wt% of the total fiber content;
 - b. applying a binder to form binder layers on the top and bottom of the web of cellulose fibers, wherein the amount of dry matter in the binder is from about 0.5 - 15 wt% and the amount of dry matter applied to the surface of the web is from about 0.5 - 20 g. of dry matter per square meter of web surface; and
 - c. heating the web to a temperature sufficient to melt the thermobonding fibers and increase the tensile strength of the finished product.

2. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein the amount of dry matter in the binder is from about 0.5 - 15 wt%.

3. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the binder is applied in an amount of about 0.5 - 10 grams dry matter per square meter of web surface.

4. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the binder is an aqueous binder.

Claims 5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the binder contains pigments admixed therewith.

8. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 2 wherein said web comprises about 10 - 25 wt% thermobonding fibers and the amount of binder applied to the surface of the web is about 0.5 - 10 grams per square meter of web surface.

9. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 2 wherein said web comprises about 3 - 7 wt% of thermobonding fibers and the amount of binder applied to the surface of the web is about 5 - 20 grams per square meter of web surface.

Claim 10-22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) A process for manufacturing an absorbent dryformed paper web having a plurality of layers, comprising:

- a. laying a web of cellulose fiber, admixed with thermobonding fibers, onto a forming wire, wherein the thermobonding fibers comprise about 3-25 wt% of the total fiber content;
- b. applying a binder to the top and to the bottom of the web of cellulose fibers to form a binder layer on the top and on the bottom of the web of cellulose fibers, wherein the amount of dry matter in the binder is from about 0.5-15 wt% and the amount of dry matter applied to the surface of the web is from about 0.5-20 g of dry matter per square meter of web surface; and
- c. heating the web to a temperature sufficient to melt the thermobonding fibers to provide sealing of dusting fibers under the surface of the binder and increase the tensile strength of the fiber product.

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24. (New) The process according to claim 23 wherein the web of cellulose fibers contains a super-absorbent material.

25. (New) The process according to claim 23 wherein the binder is applied as a foam.